



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment remained steady in the West, steady to fully steady in the Midwest and at least steady in the East. Retail and food service movement was seasonal with buyers looking to first of month for improved sales. Supplies were sufficient to close balance due to holiday reduced schedules. Trucking was reported as improved but shortages were still noted. In the parts structure, wings were clearing but adequate, other items were available and sufficient for most weekend needs. In production areas, live supplies were moderate with weights in a full range.

Preliminary report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 12/01/03-12/05/03 (cents per lb)

US GRADE A

(Including branded product)

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	56.00-59.00	56.00-66.00	58.42	24
Los Angeles	74.00			
New York	60.00-63.00			
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent				
Mississippi	68.50-69.50	55.00-70.00	68.54	73

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 68.75 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
749	63.85-72.04	68.62
Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:		
	WTD. AVG.	VOLUME
ITEM	(CENTS PER POUND)	(000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	201.50	1,117
BREASTS - B/S	171.50	4,593
BREASTS - WHOLE	89.00	1,239
THIGH MEAT - B/S	92.50	849
LEG QUARTERS	31.00	6,460
WINGS	100.50	2,469

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices for next week's deliveries were unchanged from last Monday's final majority. Trade sentiment on whole fryers generally steady. Offerings of whole birds and wogs remained limited, but adequate for buyers' needs. Retail demand seasonally slow. Food service movement was fair to good. Most buyers were watching in anticipation of improved activity next week after the holiday for first of the month period and Christmas holiday activities. Floor stock were in balance. Weights desirable. Supplies of wings ranged from adequate to in close balance, balance of parts items adequate for buyers' needs. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady on wings, balance of items about steady to steady.

SOUTHERN BROILER Trade sentiment was mostly steady in terminal markets but slightly higher on local markets. Demand was seasonal following Thanksgiving Day. Supplies were usually sufficient to handle trade needs. Processing schedules for this week are part time with plants mostly running three or four days, some on Saturday. In the parts structure, movement was fair. Wings were balanced to close, and the remaining items were mixed, but available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed but mostly desirable weights.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The preliminary majority prices for next week was unchanged from last Friday. Offerings generally adequate. Retailers demand was fair to fairly good best for parts. Dealers anticipated satisfactory weekend clearances.

Ads noted (per pound unless otherwise stated):

Arizona – unavailable;

Colorado – unavailable; Northern California – unavailable;

Southern California – boneless breast 179- 199, boneless leg meat 99, split breast 139, leg quarters 10# bag 290-390, leg quarters 69, thighs 79-99, drumsticks 79-99, whole legs 88.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYERS Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was mostly fair to moderate at best entering the weekend. Offerings of all sizes were adequate for current needs. Movement through retail and distributive channels was about fair. The market tone was steady. In the parts complex, breast items were at least sufficient. The balance of cuts were adequate.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was seasonally fair and was sufficient in keeping seller offerings in good balance to well cleared. Live supplies were moderate; weights were desirable. Processor schedules were moderate to light. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 61 to 71 cents. Trade sentiment was steady. In the parts complex, supplies were adequate.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA. **BRANDED U.S. GRADE A**

RANGE	60-77
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	63.04
NO. OF BOXES	8,285
CUMULATIVE	11/24/03-11/28/03 63.77
	11/25/02-11/29/02 49.98
NO. OF BOXES	11/24/03-11/28/03 32,623
	11/25/02-11/29/02 31,521

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	POUNDS (000)	WEEKLY WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S		TOO FEW TO REPORT			2,717	128.31
TENDERLOINS		TOO FEW TO REPORT			979	144.91
BREAST - LINE RUN		TOO FEW TO REPORT			279	82.35
FRONT HALVES		TOO FEW TO REPORT			185	78.62
LEGS		TOO FEW TO REPORT			323	37.31
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)		TOO FEW TO REPORT			823	26.35
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,192	28.00-33.00	29-30	29.72	4,644	29.67
WINGS (WHOLE)		TOO FEW TO REPORT			965	99.41
WINGS (CUT)	160	109.00-115.00	110-115	112.00	1,507	111.96
DRUMSTICKS		TOO FEW TO REPORT			50	55.04
THIGHS		TOO FEW TO REPORT			92	51.57
B/S THIGHS		TOO FEW TO REPORT			311	89.07

 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR NOVEMBER 28, 2003— F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
TOO FEW TO REPORT		52.57

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS Trucklot buying activity was fair to moderate entering the weekend. Offerings of breast items were at least sufficient. Dark meat cuts and wings were generally adequate. Retail and distributive movement was about fair with refill business offering the best draw following the holiday. The market tone mostly steady.

PRICES PAID PER LB, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BRO/FRY PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES.

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	WEEKLY WTD AVG	WEEKLY VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	145	149.83	390,440	144.04	2,560,100
TENDERLOINS	145	134.55	79,720	142.25	540,670
BREAST - WITH RIBS	74-75	80.32	287,440	80.26	849,840
BREAST - LINE RUN	74	73.11	86,200	74.50	430,320
LEGS	38-39	37.20	305,640	36.39	1,363,320
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	29-30	29.50	366,147	29.43	1,570,616
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	40.47	100,220	38.31	509,376
THIGHS	34-35	40.94	51,130	39.70	255,100
B/S THIGHS	85-86	85.57	39,560	88.02	257,143
WINGS (WHOLE)	93-94	102.87	93,920	97.75	558,270
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.08	37,040	11.99	170,840
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	33.26	22,440	34.70	83,485
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	64.71	19,800	64.19	96,010

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WT		ACTUAL		AVG WTS
	11/28	11/27	11/26	11/23	11/26	11/23	11/21	11/19	
ALA	2,820	(A)	3,620	4,731	5.05	5.09	4,731	5.16	
ARK	4,601	(A)	5,163	5,123	5.15	4.82	5,123	5.02	
DELMARVA	2,146	(A)	2,151	1,857	5.43	5.46	1,857	5.75	
KY-LA-TN	1,837	(A)	1,915	1,754	4.89	4.79	1,754	4.86	
MISS	1,720	(A)	2,826	2,535	5.37	5.50	2,535	5.14	
NC	2,012	(A)	2,185	2,036	6.40	6.31	2,036	6.28	
TEXAS	2,450	(A)	2,462	2,436	5.06	4.74	2,436	4.93	
TOTAL	17,586	366	20,322	20,472	5.29	5.16	20,472	5.25	
MON-FRI	80,603(B)						102,115(B)		

(A) Not published to avoid disclosing individual operations

(B) Weekly cumulative for states listed above Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 28-Nov 03 and 29-Nov-03 is estimated to be 26,311,000 down 14.35 percent from a week ago and up 7.2 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 30,720,000; last year 24,554,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the weekending 29-Nov-03 is estimated to be 116,212,000 head down 23 percent from a week ago, and up 1 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 151,254,000 Last year 115,454,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RETAILERS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	91-97
ROASTERS 4# & UP	80-95
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	60-63
DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

		RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	101-103
	ICE PACK	99-100
ROASTERS 4# & UP	DRY PACK	89-105
	ICE PACK	105
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	91
	DRY PACK	89
DUCKS		152-175

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 15-Nov-03 (Preliminary),

	(A) Fast food/ Food service	(B) Retail	(C) Deboning
	4.20 Lbs & down	4.21-5.25 Lbs	5.26 Lbs & Up
	-----THOUSANDS-----		

Head	28,162	29,689	47,181
Avg Weight	3.72	4.78	6.27
% of total /1	27%	28%	45%

COMPARISONS

Last week	28,380	31,306	45,207
Avg Weight	3.78	4.80	6.40
% of total /1	27%	30%	43%

Same week, yr ago /2	26,158	26,610	46,014
Avg Weight	3.72	4.74	6.25
% of total /1	26%	27%	47%

To date/2003	1,075,901	1,106,697	2,049,340
To date/2002	1,182,306	1,034,637	1,904,371

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding. /2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION W/E 22-Nov-03 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	-----THOUSANDS-----				
HEAD	151,254	1,097	1,427	2,524	446
AVG WT	5.25	3.36	8.22	6.11	6.82
LAST WEEK	157,078	1,126	1,656	2,782	416
SAME WK YR AGO	149,717	1,663	1,556	3,219	410
AVG WT	5.16	3.71	7.96	5.76	6.87
TO-DATE/2003	7,238,024	67,191	66,176	133,367	19,500
TO-DATE/2002	7,303,467	81,900	66,918	148,818	19,636

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 149.1 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 153.1 million head or 4 million head more than or 103% of estimated fryers available.

EAST PETERSBURG POULTRY - DATE OF AUCTION: NOV 25, 2003
PRICES PAID PER POUND, EXCEPT AS NOTED

AI PAPERS REQUIRED FOR ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	RANGE		RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	.90 - .95	Banty Roosters	2.75 - 3.25ea.
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.85 - .95	Banty Hens	2.00 - 2.50ea.
Pekin Ducks	3.50 - 4.25ea.	Pigeons	2.00 - 2.20ea.
Red Fowl 4-5 LBS	.50 - .60	White Pigeons	2.75 - 3.00ea.
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.50 - .90	Rabbits	
Crossbred Fowl 5-9 LBS	.60 - .80	4-6 LBS	1.15 - 1.40
Crossbred Roosters		Rabbits	
4-6 LBS	.60 - .90	6-9 LBS	1.10 - 1.20
Crossbred Roosters		Bunnies	2.00 - 4.00ea.
7-11 LBS	.55 - .70	Guinea Pigs	3.00 - 6.00ea.
Guinea Fowl	1.20 - 1.35	Doves	3.00ea.
		Chukars	1.75ea.

Total Coops Sold 238

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 24-NOV-2003

DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	140	146
MOSTLY		
MIDWEST	124-128	125-130
MOSTLY		

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	71.00-73.50	72.00-73.50
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	62.00-85.50	67.00-75.50

SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-69.66
14 OZ.	66.96-76.14
16 OZ.	73.44-83.43

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices unchanged. Trade sentiment steady. Demand was moderate to good. Schedules part-time due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Weights were desirable. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$4.25-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.35-1.45, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$0.30-0.45, livers at \$0.75-1.70, and feet at \$0.80-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 24-NOV-2003

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	107-124	125
MOSTLY		

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO**ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.**

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
OCTOBER 18	159.0	158.1	101%	5.26
25	161.0	158.3	102%	5.25
NOVEMBER 1	159.7	157.2	102%	5.36
8	160.0	154.5	104%	5.04
15	159.0	151.7	105%	5.30
22	153.1	149.1	103%	5.25
YEAR TO DATE	7326.0	7369.8	99%	
NOVEMBER 29		149.6		
DECEMBER 6		150.2		

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER

	Under Federal Inspection				
	-----THOUSANDS-----				
W/E	11/29/03	11/22/03	% CHG	11/30/02	% CHG
Broilers	116,212	151,254*	-23	115,454 *	+01
Cattle	548	607	-10	623*	-12
Hogs	1,888	2,141	-12	1,816*	+04

* ACTUAL

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Majority prices were generally unchanged on both light and heavy canner when compared to a week earlier. Demand was fair to moderate and generally unaggressive. Trading was limited. Available offerings were clearing satisfactorily. Processing schedules were reduced due to the holiday. The undertone was steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS HEAVY CANNER HENS

(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS) (WITHOUT NECKS)
21-25 MAJORITY 23-24 29-36 MAJORITY 34-35

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS HEAVY CANNER HENS
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS) (WITHOUT NECKS)

22-27 MAJORITY 26 31.5-38 MAJORITY 35.5-37

LIGHT TYPE HENS

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS (INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN Values were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Offerings of spent fowl were about adequate. Processing schedules were reduced due to the holiday. Demand was light to moderate but generally unaggressive. Opinions on removal cost were generally steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	0-12	10-11

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Actual sales were too few to report. Demand was light for fully adequate supplies of spent leg-horn hens. Schedules were as desired. Finished sales were static. Disposal costs were expected to remain constant.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices were ranged unchanged to lower with majority values unchanged. Offerings were adequate for reduced holiday schedules with demand reported as fairly good. Alternative sources of disposal had not seen the influx of spent fowl they had previously expected. Opinions of value were steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	0-12.5	10-12.25

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plants worked desired holiday slaughter schedules. Offerings in fair balance.

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HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 01-DEC-03

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was moderate but unaggressive. Offerings were about adequate to adequate for reduced holiday schedules. Supplies of finished product were clearing. The undertone was steady.

RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT

SOUTH CENTRAL LIVE HEAVY-TYPE HENS Prices were too few to report. Demand for spent heavy hens was moderate. Supplies were adequate. Finished sales were seasonally active. Schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was generally steady.

RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT

MISC. POULTRY: Seasonal/Weekly NEW YORK SEASONAL HOLIDAY ITEMS. FOR DELIVERY THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 24, 2003.

CAPONS:

Supplies of USDA Grade A frozen capons were in close balance. Buying interest for December holiday needs was good. Prices to first receivers were unchanged. Weights were in a full range. Trade sentiment was fully steady.

DOLLARS PER POUND DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS:
6-9 LBS. 1.55-1.75 MOSTLY 1.60-1.70

GEESE:

Prices were unchanged. Supplies of frozen USDA Grade A geese were in good balance. Bookings were about as expected for December needs. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady.

DOLLARS PER POUND DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS:
8-16 LBS. 2.25-2.35

PRICES REPORTED FROM LATE OCTOBER THRU MID DECEMBER.